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made, and every section is broken up into numbered paragraphs, while each paragraph has prefixed to it in italics a summary of its contents.

The Appendix, containing a History of Speculative Philosophy, is wonderfully comprehensive and thorough for a mere abstract, which it purports to be. It is idle to compare it with such voluminous Histories of Philosophy as we have in our libraries; but it contains as much of detail as a college student could reasonably be expected to deposit in his memory, and its whole style and manner indicate the author's conversance with the entire ground, and mark him as fully adequate to cover it with a more elaborate work of the same tenor.

On the whole, we are disposed to recommend this as the best elementary text-book on mental science within our knowledge. But let it be remembered that it is intended as a *first* book, and only as such should it be judged. It is, however, such a first book as would make us hope to see a second from the same pen.

34. — *Sermons*. By JOSEPH ADDISON ALEXANDER. In Two Volumes. New York: Charles Scribner. 1860. 12mo. pp. 414, 425.

WE are surprised, no less than gratified, by these volumes. We should have expected what we find, sound, thoughtful, and ably-written discourses; but knowing that Dr. Alexander had led, without interruption, an academic life, and had been brought very little into relation with other than the student-varieties of human nature, we should not have looked for a very close adaptation to the common spiritual needs of mixed assemblies and communities. Yet these Sermons are eminently practical, — as simple as they are pure in style, as plain as they are scholarly in the exposition of text and doctrine, as level with an ordinary capacity as they are adapted to insure the respectful listening of the most cultivated audience.

35. — *Forty Years' Familiar Letters of JAMES W. ALEXANDER, D. D. Constituting, with the Notes, a Memoir of his Life*. Edited by the Surviving Correspondent, JOHN HALL, D. D. In Two Volumes. New York: Charles Scribner. 1860. 8vo. pp. 412, 319.

OF the two eminent and lamented brothers, whose recent death has led to the publication of the Sermons of one and the Letters of the other, James was regarded as the more versatile and popular writer; Joseph, as the more finished scholar. The friends of the former, and

the public generally, have reason to be thankful for the materials, ample enough to constitute a memoir, which are furnished in this correspondence. His letters to Dr. Hall were so frequent, and so full of personal incident, as to leave very little to be supplied in the notes, and so intimate and confidential as to make us feel that they are the truest autobiography possible. They present him to us as pre-eminently a Christian man of the world, taking cognizance of all aspects of life, thought, and literature within his reach, throwing out his beneficent activity in every direction, and, while rigidly observant of the highest moralities of his profession, heedless of its mere traditional conventionalities. There are some things in these letters which the editor's good taste should have led him to omit, such as personalities of a kind entirely lawful between friend and friend, but wounding at once the writer's reputation and the sensibilities of their subjects when made public.

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- 36.—*Scotland in the Middle Ages: Sketches of Early Scotch History and Social Progress.* By COSMO INNES, Professor of History in the University of Edinburgh. Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas. 1860. 8vo. pp. xlv. and 368.

THE history of Scotland in the Middle Age is the history of a rude and illiterate nation, with fierce manners and barbarous laws. Yet it is not without interest, both on account of the contrast presented by the Scotch of that period to their industrious, thrifty, and educated descendants, who have since achieved so honorable a place among the subjects of the British crown, and also as a significant illustration of the general progress of society in the last two or three centuries. This contrast and progress are well exhibited in the volume before us, which comprises the substance of a course of academical lectures delivered in the University of Edinburgh, together with much additional matter, in further elucidation of the subject. Mr. Innes does not, indeed, claim to have made any profound or original researches, and he admits that he is "quite ignorant of the Celtic languages." Nor is his style always lucid and harmonious; occasional obscurities of expression perplex the reader, and inelegant words and phrases disfigure the page. But his plan is well conceived and faithfully executed; and his volume brings together in a moderate compass much curious information which is nowhere else so easily accessible. We welcome it as a creditable contribution to general historical literature, apart from the special interest which it must possess for the students of Scotch history.

The book is divided into ten chapters, of which the first two are